(d) Does not arise.

(e) Industrial plots have been developed at the Vagra Growth Centre which has shown considerable progress. The other two growth centres at Palanpur and Gandhidham have yet to demonstrate progress as the State Government is in the process of acquisition of land. Implementation and completion of these projects rests with the state Government.

Changes Made in Exim Policy

4422. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of changes made in the recently announced EXIM Policy to brighten the export prospects;

(b) the extent to which our export is likely to be increased during the current year; and

(c) what is the number of items on which Q.R. has been done away with?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) In the revised Exim Policy (RE-2000), 1997-2000 notified on 31-03-2000, Government has announced various measures to promote exports. These include setting up of Special Economic Zones, rationalisation of existing export promotion schemes (EPCG and Duty Exemption/Remission Scheme), encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplification, de-centralisation of decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and Government organisation through the facility of electronic filling of application at several port offices.

(b) The growth rate of export depends on various factors, including growth in World Trade and State of economies of other countries/economic blocks over which we do not have any control. However, at present indications, exports prospects look to be fairly bright.

(c) Quantitative Restrictions on 714 additional items have been removed with effect from 1-4-2000.

FDI in IT Industry

4423. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : **Will** the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a major proposal for Information Technology (IT) industry recommending 100 per cent FDI through automatic route for all operations that provide infrastructure for this industry;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal made/finalised/under consideration and implications thereof;

(c) what is the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the details regarding projections of FDI in I.T. Industry during 2000-2001 and next five years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : (a) to (c) Government as a part of further liberalising FDI policy, has placed all activities/items under the automatic route for 100% FDI except for a negative list. There is no sectoral cap for FDI in Information Technology infrastucuture.

(d) In the rapidly changing technologies and market scenario, it would be difficult to make specific projections.

Post-Export Duty Free Replenishment Licence Scheme

4424. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Exim Policy has introduced post export duty free replenishment licence scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) which are the items for which the scheme is applicable ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Duty Free Replenishmernt Certificate (DFRC) is issued to a merchant-exporter or manufacturer-exporter for the import of inputs used in the manufacture of goods without payment of Basic Custom Duty, Surcharge and Special Additional Duty. DFRC shall be subject to a minimum value addition of 33% and this will be issued in respect of export products covered under the SION (Standard Input-Output Norms) as notified by DGFT. The validity of such licence will be for 12 months.

US Pharma Sector Slams India's Patent Regime

4425. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "US pharma sector slams India's patent regime", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 5th April, 2000;